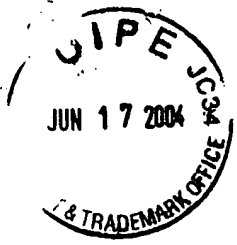


IFW



**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Docket No: Q80405

Kozo NOGI, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/798,346

Group Art Unit: 1711

Confirmation No.: 5598

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: March 11, 2004

For: SURFACE CROSSLINKING TREATMENT METHOD OF WATER-ABSORBING  
RESIN POWDER

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
U.S. Appl. No.: 10/798,346

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant submits the following explanations:

JP-A-2002-121291:

The above document corresponds to U.S. Patent 6,576,713 and is described on page 2 of the present specification.

WO 94/15651:

The above document corresponds to U.S. Patent 5,610,220, and an abstract is provided on the cover page.

JP-T-8-508517:

The above document corresponds to U.S. Patent 5,610,220, and is described on page 3 of the present specification.

WO 95/09014:

The above document corresponds to U.S. Patent 5,672,633, and an abstract is provided on the cover page.

JP-T-9-502221:

The above document corresponds to U.S. Patent 5,672,633, and is described on page 3 of the present specification.

JP-T-2001-523287:

The above document corresponds to U.S. Patent 6,363,252, and is described on page 3 of the present specification.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/798,346

WO 01/25290:

The above document corresponds to U.S. Patent 6,414,214 and is described on page 3 of the present specification.

JP-B-7-62073:

The above document corresponds to U.S. Patent 5,369,148, and is described on page 3 of the present specification.

JP-B-2,966,539:

An English abstract is enclosed with the above document.

WO 01/38402:

The above document is described on page 11 of the present specification, and an abstract is provided on the cover page.

JP-A-2002-212204 and JP-A-2001-232734:

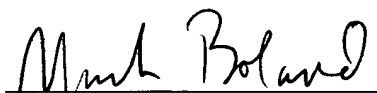
The above documents correspond to EP 1 178 059. A copy of JP-A-2001-232734 is not presently available, but the undersigned is attempting to obtain a copy.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/798,346

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: June 17, 2004

Substitute for Form 1449 A &amp; B/PTO

Complete if Known

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 3

Application Number	10/798,346
Confirmation Number	5598
Filing Date	March 11, 2004
First Named Inventor	Kozo NOGI
Art Unit	1711
Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Attorney Docket Number	Q80405

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)		
		US 6,576,713	B2	6/10/2003	Ishizaki et al.
		US 5,610,220	A	3/11/1997	Klimmek et al.
		US 5,672,633	A	9/30/1997	Brehm et al.
		US 6,323,252	B1	11/27/2001	Gartner et al.
		US 6,414,214	B1	7/2/2002	Engelhardt et al.
		US 4,734,478		3/29/1988	Tsubakimoto et al.
		US 5,369,148	A	11/29/1994	Takahashi et al.
		US 4,625,001		11/25/1986	Tsubakimoto et al.
		US 4,985,514		1/15/1991	Kimura et al.

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)			
		JP	2002-121291	A	4/23/2002		No
		WO	94/15651	A1	7/21/1994		Partial abstract
		JP	8-508517	A	9/10/1996		No
		WO	95/09014	A1	4/6/1995		Partial abstract
		JP	9-502221	A	3/4/1997		No
		WO	98/49221	A1	11/5/1998		English
		JP	2001-523287	A	11/20/2001		No
		WO	01/25290	A1	4/12/2001		No
		JP	762073	B2	7/5/1995		No
		JP	2966539	B2	8/13/1999		No
		WO	01/38402	A1	5/31/2001		Partial abstract
		EP	1 178 059	A2	6/2/2002		English

**NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation <sup>6</sup>

Examiner Signature

Date Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov), MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.

**JUN 17 2004**

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Sheet	2	of	3
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Application Number	10/798,346
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Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
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		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)		
		US 5,124,416	A	6/23/1992	Haruna et al.
		US 5,250,640	A	10/5/1993	Irie et al.
		US 5,149,750	A	9/22/1992	Niessner et al.
		US 4,769,427		9/6/1988	Nowakowsky et al.
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		US 4,093,776		6/6/1978	Aoki et al.
		US 4,367,323		1/4/1983	Kitamura et al.
		US 4,446,261		5/1/1984	Yamasaki et al.
		US 4,683,274		7/28/1987	Nakamura et al.

[illegible]

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation <sup>6</sup>

**Date Considered**

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov), MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.

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Application Number	10/798,346
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Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Attorney Docket Number	Q80405

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Initials\***

**Cite  
No.<sup>1</sup>**

## Number

## Kind

(if known)

**Publication Date**  
**MM-DD-YYYY**

Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document

US 5,244,735

A

9/14/1993

Kimura et al.

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US

**Examiner  
Initials\***

Cite  
No.<sup>1</sup>

## Country

Number<sup>4</sup>Kind Code<sup>s</sup>  
(if known)

**Publication Date**  
**MM-DD-YYYY**

Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document

### Translation<sup>6</sup>

**Examiner  
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Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.

### Translation<sup>6</sup>

**Examiner Signature**

**Date Considered**

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov), MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.